

HONORING MONTANA'S WORLD
WAR II VETERANS

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, today it is my distinct privilege to welcome a very special group of men and women to our Nation's capital. And while it is incumbent upon us to honor them, the truth is, they honor us with their presence here.

On September 23, 2012, nearly 100 veterans of the Second World War will arrive in Washington, D.C. through the Honor Flight program. Since 2005, Honor Flight has worked to bring WWII veterans to visit their war memorial at the foot of the Washington Monument, and a few feet from the White House. In that first year, 137 veterans participated in the program. By last year, that total annual participation had swelled to 18,055.

And while each of the veterans who has participated deserves our thanks and our honor, this particular group is special because it marks the second time this year that Honor Flight has brought out a group of veterans from Montana.

You won't find a state that's more proud of our veterans than Montana. And we have a lot of them. In fact, you won't find many states that have more as a percentage of our population.

On December 7, 1941 the United States was pulled into the war and Montanans answered the call to service. Within the first year, 40,000 men and women from the Treasure State enlisted. By the end of the war, 57,000 had served—nearly 10 percent of the state's entire population at the time, one of the highest rates in the country.

They served in every branch and in every theater of the conflict. And too many of them never made it back to Montana, although I think that heaven must be a little something like a peaceful sunset over the Yellowstone River.

But Montana's veterans didn't sacrifice in vain. They bled and died to defeat the greatest threat to freedom the world has ever seen. They fought across the bloody islands of the Pacific and in the frozen forests of Europe. They fought in the air, land and sea. Some even fought below the waves. And they won.

Today, the men and women who fought and won that war are justifiably part of what is called the Greatest Generation. The sacrifices of men and women who arrive in Washington, D.C. are the reason for this honorable title. It is not something we gave to them, it's something they earned.

As they visit this city and reflect on what it stands for as a beacon of freedom to the world, I think the rest of us should remember that the reason liberty still exists is because good men stood up to tyranny. They are the greatest of the Greatest Generation, and on behalf of all Montanans, I want to thank them.

57,000 Montanans served during World War II. Just under 100 are here this week. Please join me in welcoming and honoring:

Lee Alderdice (Polson, MT); Milton Lyman Amsden (Broadus, MT); Harry A. Arvidson (Lincoln, MT); Peter N. "Bert" Bertram (Absarokee, MT); Leonard E. "Len" Bestrom (Laurel, MT); Warren Charles Bodecker

(Plains, MT); Ralph Floyd Brewington (Broadview, MT); James C. "Jim" Brook (Lewistown, MT); William Boner "Bill" Brown (Billings, MT); Jackson Lamar "Jack" Burger (Lavina, MT); Filmore Burton Canon (Broadus, MT); John M. Clark (Butte, MT); Harold Lee "Hal" Conrad (Lewistown, MT); Hollis E. Coon (Butte, MT); Gool Counts (Livingston, MT); Carley Rhein Cromwell (Missoula, MT); Leo Eckhardt (Billings, MT); James E. "Jim" Elander (Missoula, MT); James "Jim" Ellison (Billings, MT); Charles T. "Bosco" Eskro (Billings, MT); Frank D. Evans (Billings, MT); Alvin Oscar Fisher (Billings, MT); Samuel W. Frank (Laurel, MT); Durl J. Gibbs (Buffalo, MT); Raymond P. "Ray" Gregori (Hungry Horse, MT); Robert Glover Hall (Potomac, MT); Charles E. "Chuck" Halstead (Columbus, MT); Thomas A. "Tom" Hanel (Billings, MT); Russell LeRoy Hartse (Missoula, MT); James "Jim" Hasterlik (Great Falls, MT); Milam V. Hearron (Billings, MT); McDonald Watkins "Don" Held (Billings, MT); Lewis William "Louie" Holzheimer (Great Falls, MT); Bernard E. "Barney" Ilertson (Corvallis, MT); Earl T. Jackson (Deer Lodge, MT); Elwin M. Johnson (Laurel, MT); George L. Kimmel (Billings, MT); Vincent Leo "Vince" Koefelda (Laurel, MT); Vernon Lee "Vern" Koelzer (Billings, MT); Frank J. Koncilya (Lewistown, MT); Andre Rioul "Andy" Kukay (Great Falls, MT); Willard E. "Bud" LaCounte (Billings, MT); Albert Raymond "Al" Lasater (Ryegate, MT); Harold J. Lasater (Forsyth, MT); Gorvan J. "Duke" LeDuc (Laurel, MT); Oscar Lawrence "Lawrence" Lee (Shepherd, MT); Norman D. Leonard (Billings, MT); Joseph Biggs "Joe" Little (Bozeman, MT); Max E. Long (Laurel, MT); Robert W. Lubbers (Billings, MT); Leonard John "Pat" Mager (Harlowton, MT); James J. Marshall (Missoula, MT); William R. "Bill" Matthew (Anaconda, MT); Paul Messer (Billings, MT); Elizabeth Steele "Betty" Meyer (Paradise, MT); Geraldine E. "Gerry" Mihalic (Missoula, MT); Gerald Kenneth "Jerry" Nelson (Billings, MT); John H. "O'bie" O'Bannon (Stevensville, MT); Clarence Allan "Ole" Olson (Billings, MT); Eddie C. Olson (Vida, MT); Ray A. "Ole" Olson (Billings, MT); Thomas F. "Pat" Patterson (Stevensville, MT); Roy Louis "Pete" Peters (Roy, MT); John W. Porter (Deer Lodge, MT); Carl "Corky" Redding (Billings, MT); Michael Gene Rhodes (Billings, MT); Robert V. "Bob" Ryan (E. Helena, MT); Charles Franklin "Frank" Sandford (Missoula, MT); Dave Schledewitz (Townsend, MT); Laurence Norbert Shipp (Miles City, MT); William James "Jim" Sivelle (Poison, MT); Anthony William "Bill" Skorupa (Bridger, MT); Charles E. "Chuck" Smith (Billings, MT); Donald E. Smith (Melville, MT); Kenneth C. "K.C." Smith (St. Regis, MT); Robert M. "Bob" Standefer (Billings, MT); John R. "Jack" Stevenson (Missoula, MT); Frank Phillip Thatcher (Billings, MT); Clifford V. "Cliff" Thomsen (Billings, MT); Robert E. "Bob" Torgirson (Billings, MT); Ronald Wilmar "Buck" Torstenson (KalisPELL, MT); James Arthur "Jim" Vick (Billings, MT); Albert "Al" Wade (Billings, MT); James Forest "Jim" Walker (Billings, MT); Bernard Edgar Wanderaas (Vida, MT); Joseph A. "Joe" Weber (Deer Lodge, MT); Allen L. "Buster" Whittington (Billings, MT); Bryce Wood Williams (Billings, MT); Andrew R. "Pete" Winter (Ronan, MT).

WISHING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN
A JOYOUS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations and best wishes to President Ma Ying-jeou on the occasion of Republic of China (Taiwan)'s National Day. This national holiday commemorates the 1911 Wu-ch'ang uprising that ended centuries of monarchy and led to the birth of the Republic of China.

Taiwan and the United States enjoy a robust relationship that reflects our two countries' historical, cultural and economic ties over the last century. Despite lack of formal relations between the two countries, the United States and Taiwan continue to be strong partners in trade, cultural and educational exchanges as well as cooperation in many other areas. Taiwan's cooperation with the United States in combating global terrorism has earned the trust of the American people and boosted exchanges and friendship between our two nations. Such relations also extend to discussions over Taiwan's military needs. A strong Taipei-Washington relationship is in both governments' best interests for the stability of East Asia. This year, we celebrated the 33rd anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations.

My additional congratulations to the people of Taiwan for their continued participation in the World Health Assembly meetings this May in Geneva. I hope Taiwan will also soon join the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

I join my fellow colleagues in wishing the people of Taiwan a joyous National Day celebration and look forward to expanding our strong relationship.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT SMALL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Mr. Robert W. Small for the time and energy he has dedicated to the Military Academy Nomination process by serving the constituents of the 19th Congressional District as a member of our Academy Selection Board.

Robert W. Small was born in Lordsburg, New Mexico on February 11, 1935. Mr. Small served his country in both the United States Marine Corps and the United States Army. While in the Marine Corps, he was called to duty on combat missions in both Korea and Vietnam; yet, his service went beyond combat. Mr. Small completed duty as a Marine Corps Drill Instructor and Marine Corps Recruiter in addition to assignments with Inspector Instructor Staff, Hawk Missile System, and Infantry and Tanks.

Beyond his work with the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Small has a distinguished career with the United States Army. As an Army